

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims, in which deleted matter is either struck-through or enclosed in double brackets and added matter, other than that in newly presented claims, is underlined, replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1-17. Canceled

18. (Currently Amended) A method of programming a plurality of detonators which are connected to a control unit by a communications bus, and there is a daisy chain connection between the control unit and the detonators, the method including the steps of using the control unit to address a first detonator to allow an exchange of data, on the communications bus, between the first detonator and the control unit and using the first detonator to enable a second detonator to be addressed by the control unit to allow an exchange of data, on the communications bus, between the second detonator and the control unit, wherein the second detonator is addressable by the control unit only after ~~a second~~ an enabling signal has been sent by the first detonator to the second detonator and wherein the ~~second~~ enabling signal is ~~only sent once~~ a first sent only after a disabling signal has been sent by the control unit to the first detonator.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein the second detonator is used to enable a third detonator to be addressed by the control unit to allow an exchange of data, on the communications bus, between the third detonator and the control unit.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein the first detonator is addressable by the control unit only after a first enabling signal has been sent by the control unit to the first detonator.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein the first detonator is closest on the communications bus to the control unit.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein the first detonator is a predetermined one of the plurality of detonators and is directly addressable by the control unit.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of programming a plurality of detonators in sequence which includes the steps of exchanging data between a first detonator and a control unit using a communications bus to which all of the detonators are connected in parallel, and there is a daisy chain connection between the control unit and the detonators, disabling the first detonator from being addressed by the control unit, using the first detonator to enable a second detonator to be addressed by the control unit, exchanging data between the second detonator and the control unit using the communications bus, using the second detonator to enable a third detonator to be addressed by the control unit, and using the communications bus to disable the second detonator from being addressed by the control unit.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the first detonator is disabled by means of a first signal sent on the communications bus and, when the first detonator is disabled, the first detonator is used to enable the second detonator to be addressed by the control unit.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the first detonator is a predetermined one of the plurality of detonators and is directly addressable by the control unit.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23 or 24 wherein the first detonator is closest on the communications bus to the control unit.

27. (Previously Presented) A blasting system which includes a control unit, a communications bus which is connected to the control unit, a plurality of detonators which are individually addressable and which are connected in sequence to the communications bus along its length, and a daisy chain connection between the control unit and the detonators, and wherein, within the sequence of detonators, a first detonator makes use of the daisy chain connection to enable a second following detonator so that data can be exchanged between the control unit and the second detonator using the communications bus.

28. (Previously Presented) A blasting system according to claim 27 wherein the first detonator is disabled by a first signal on the communications bus, from being addressed by the control unit, and the first detonator then enables the second following detonator to be addressed by the control unit.

29. (Previously Presented) A blasting system according to claim 27 wherein data which is exchanged between each detonator and the control unit is selected from timing information which relates to the operation or initiation of the detonator; information on the status or an operation aspect of the detonator; testing information relating to the detonator; and detonator identity, address or category data.

30. (Previously Presented) A blasting system according to claim 27 wherein the first detonator is a predetermined one of the plurality of detonators and is directly addressable by the control unit.

31. (Previously Presented) A blasting system according to claim 27 wherein the first detonator is closest on the communications bus to the control unit.